Neil Merkl Robert W. Schumacher KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP 101 Park Avenue New York, New York 10178 Telephone: (212) 808-7800 Attorneys for Defendant Manulife Financial Corporation

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

A-DEL CONSTRUCTION CORP., BARRY J. BAKER, and HARRY G. JOHNSON,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, METROPOLITAN SECURITIES, INC., RICHARD WEZNER, PLR MANAGEMENT CO., LLC, PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS GROUP, UNITED GROUP PROGRAMS, MEDICAL BENEFIT ADMINISTRATORS, MANULIFE FINANCIAL CORPORATION, DONALD NEUHAUS, AMERICAN FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., fictitious defendants JOHN DOE(S) I-X and ABC COMPANY(IES) I-X,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER: 07-CIV-9324

**ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES** 

Defendant Manulife Financial Corporation ("Manulife"), by its attorneys, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, as and for its Answer to the Complaint of Plaintiffs A-Del Construction Corp., Barry J. Baker, and Harry G. Johnson ("Plaintiffs"), hereby states as follows:

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.

- 2. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 2 of the Complaint.
- 3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint.
- 4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 4 of the Complaint.
- 5. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 5 of the Complaint.
- 6. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 6 of the Complaint.
- 7. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 7 of the Complaint.
- 8. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint.
- 9. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint.
- 10. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint.
- 11. Denies the allegations in Paragraph 11 of the Complaint, and states that Manulife Financial Corporation is a holding company organized and existing under the laws of Canada, having its principal place of business at 200 Bloor Street East, NT-7, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

- 12. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint.
- 13. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint.
- 14. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 14 of the Complaint.
- 15. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.
- 16. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 16 of the Complaint.
- 17. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

### **FIRST COUNT**

- 18. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint.
- 19. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.
- 20. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.
- 21. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.
- 22. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint.

- 23. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint.
- 24. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 24 of the Complaint.
- 25. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 25 of the Complaint.
- 26. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 26 of the Complaint.
- 27. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint.
- 28. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint.
- 29. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

# **SECOND COUNT**

- 30. In response to Paragraph 30 of the Complaint, repeats, reiterates and realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1 through 29 of the Complaint with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
- 31. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint.
- 32. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 32 of the Complaint.

- 33. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 33 of the Complaint.
- 34. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 34 of the Complaint.
- 35. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 35 of the Complaint.
- 36. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint.
- 37. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 37 of the Complaint.
- 38. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 38 of the Complaint.
- 39. Denies the allegations in Paragraph 39 of the Complaint, except to admit that it has not rescinded any transactions.
- 40. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 40 of the Complaint.
  - 41. Denies the allegations in Paragraph 41 of the Complaint.
  - 42. Denies the allegations in Paragraph 42 of the Complaint.
  - 43. Denies the allegations in Paragraph 43 of the Complaint.

#### THIRD COUNT

44. In response to Paragraph 44 of the Complaint, repeats, reiterates and realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1 through 43 of the Complaint with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.

- 45. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 45 of the Complaint.
- 46. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 46 of the Complaint.
- 47. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 47 of the Complaint.

# **FOURTH COUNT**

- 48. In response to Paragraph 48 of the Complaint, repeats, reiterates and realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1 through 47 of the Complaint with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
- 49. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 49 of the Complaint.
- 50. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 50 of the Complaint.
- 51. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 51 of the Complaint.
- 52. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 52 of the Complaint.
- 53. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 53 of the Complaint.
- 54. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 54 of the Complaint.

- 55. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 55 of the Complaint.
- 56. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 56 of the Complaint.
- 57. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 57 of the Complaint.

### **FIFTH COUNT**

- 58. In response to Paragraph 58 of the Complaint, repeats, reiterates and realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1 through 57 of the Complaint with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
- 59. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 59 of the Complaint.
- 60. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 60 of the Complaint.
- 61. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 61 of the Complaint.
- 62. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 62 of the Complaint.
- 63. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 63 of the Complaint.
- 64. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 64 of the Complaint.

- 65. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 65 of the Complaint.
- 66. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 66 of the Complaint.
- 67. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 67 of the Complaint.
- 68. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 68 of the Complaint.
- 69. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 69 of the Complaint.

### **SIXTH COUNT**

- 70. In response to Paragraph 70 of the Complaint, repeats, reiterates and realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1 through 69 of the Complaint with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
- 71. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 71 of the Complaint.
- 72. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 72 of the Complaint.
- 73. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 73 of the Complaint.
- 74. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 74 of the Complaint.

- 75. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 75 of the Complaint.
- 76. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 76 of the Complaint.
- 77. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 77 of the Complaint.
- 78. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 78 of the Complaint.

### **SEVENTH COUNT**

- 79. In response to Paragraph 79 of the Complaint, repeats, reiterates and realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1 through 78 of the Complaint with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
- 80. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 80 of the Complaint.
- 81. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 81 of the Complaint.
- 82. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 82 of the Complaint.
- 83. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 83 of the Complaint.
- 84. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 84 of the Complaint.

- 85. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 85 of the Complaint.
- 86. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 86 of the Complaint.
- 87. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 87 of the Complaint.
- 88. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 88 of the Complaint.
- 89. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 89 of the Complaint.

### **EIGHTH COUNT**

- 90. In response to Paragraph 90 of the Complaint, repeats, reiterates and realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1 through 89 of the Complaint with the same force and effect as if hereinafter set forth at length.
- 91. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 91 of the Complaint.
- 92. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 92 of the Complaint.
- 93. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 93 of the Complaint.
- 94. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 94 of the Complaint.

- 95. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 95 of the Complaint.
- 96. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 96 of the Complaint.
- 97. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 97 of the Complaint.
- 98. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 98 of the Complaint.
- 99. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 99 of the Complaint.
- 100. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 100 of the Complaint.
- 101. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 101 of the Complaint.
- 102. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 102 of the Complaint.
- 103. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 103 of the Complaint.
- 104. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 104 of the Complaint.
- 105. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 105 of the Complaint.

- 106. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 106 of the Complaint.
- 107. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 107 of the Complaint.
- 108. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 108 of the Complaint.
- 109. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 109 of the Complaint.
- 110. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 110 of the Complaint.
- 111. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 111 of the Complaint.
- 112. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 112 of the Complaint.
- 113. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 113 of the Complaint.
- 114. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 114 of the Complaint.

### **First Affirmative Defense**

The Complaint fails to state a cause of action against Manulife.

#### **Second Affirmative Defense**

Plaintiffs' claims against Manulife are barred, in whole or in part, because they have suffered no damages as a result of the matters alleged in the Complaint.

# **Third Affirmative Defense**

Manulife does not owe any fiduciary duty to the Plaintiffs, as required for a claim for an Accounting.

## **Fourth Affirmative Defense**

Plaintiffs have failed to allege fraud with particularity, as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b).

### **Fifth Affirmative Defense**

The claims for breach of contract are barred for lack of privity of contract with Manulife.

# **Sixth Affirmative Defense**

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Manulife's alleged actions or omissions were not the proximate cause of any alleged loss by the Plaintiffs.

### **Seventh Affirmative Defense**

Plaintiffs have not suffered, and will not suffer, any injury to a legally protected or cognizable interest by reason of the conduct of Manulife as alleged in the Complaint.

# **Eighth Affirmative Defense**

Plaintiffs' injuries, if any, are the result of Plaintiffs' own culpable conduct.

### **Ninth Affirmative Defense**

Plaintiffs' injuries, if any, were caused by third parties other than Manulife.

# WHEREFORE, Manulife demands judgment:

- 1. Dismissing the Complaint;
- 2. For the costs and disbursements of this action, together with such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York

July 28, 2008

KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP

By: s/Neil Merkl

Neil Merkl Robert W. Schumacher 101 Park Avenue New York, NY 10178 (212) 808-7800 Attorneys for Defendant Manulife Financial Corporation